



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 29, 2002

Contact: Nora A. Romero  
(916) 654-2309  
(916) 654-3198 fax

**Thomas W. Voss is Appointed Executive Director of Coalinga State Hospital**

*State Mental Health Director appoints career manager to head state's new forensic hospital.*

**Sacramento**--State Mental Health Director Stephen W. Mayberg, Ph.D., today announced the appointment of Walter Thomas Voss as Executive Director of Coalinga State Hospital.

Mr. Voss's career spans 25 years in the California Department of Corrections where he held a number of managerial positions in four institutions and headquarters. In his former position as a Regional Health Care Administrator, he oversaw the health care delivery systems of 12 institutions serving 38,000 inmates that included two general acute care hospitals, six correctional treatment centers, infirmary level of care facilities as well as outpatient care clinics within the CDC. Mr. Voss earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Phoenix and is a Navy veteran.

"Mr. Voss's managerial experience in healthcare delivery in CDC, one of the largest organizations in California gives him excellent credentials for the huge job ahead of him," said Stephen W. Mayberg, Director of the Department of Mental Health. "I believe his lengthy experience and his knowledge of large institutional systems are strong assets and will give him the necessary supports and partnerships as he begins the process of designing and activating a new forensic hospital including hiring staff and developing programs."

A current resident of City of Folsom, Mr. Voss assumed his new job as Executive Director of Coalinga State Hospital in a Career Executive Assignment on February 1. He will work out of the DMH headquarters in Sacramento and will relocate to the City of Coalinga October 2002 once offices have been established.

Coalinga State Hospital, the first state hospital built in the last 50 years, will be built adjacent to Pleasant Valley State Prison in the City of Coalinga, in Western Fresno County. The 1500-bed facility will cost \$377 million to build and will have an annual operating budget of \$100-150 million. Jobs will cover every wage and skill level, from administrators and clinicians to electricians and janitors. The hospital staff of approximately 2000 will include physicians, psychologists, pharmacists, psychiatric social workers, nurses and psychiatric technicians in addition to many other jobs that support the administration of the hospital. The hospital will be administered by the Department of Mental Health and perimeter security will be provided by the Department of Corrections. Coalinga State Hospital is expected to be operational by fall 2004 and will serve primarily Sexually Violent Predators and Judicially Committed Penal Code patients.

###



**DO YOUR PART TO HELP CALIFORNIA SAVE  
ENERGY**

For energy saving tips, visit the DMH website at  
[www.dmh.cahwnet.gov](http://www.dmh.cahwnet.gov)